KUPPERBERG·HOBERG·STARR

POWER GIRL

FOUR ISSUE MINI-SERIES

3
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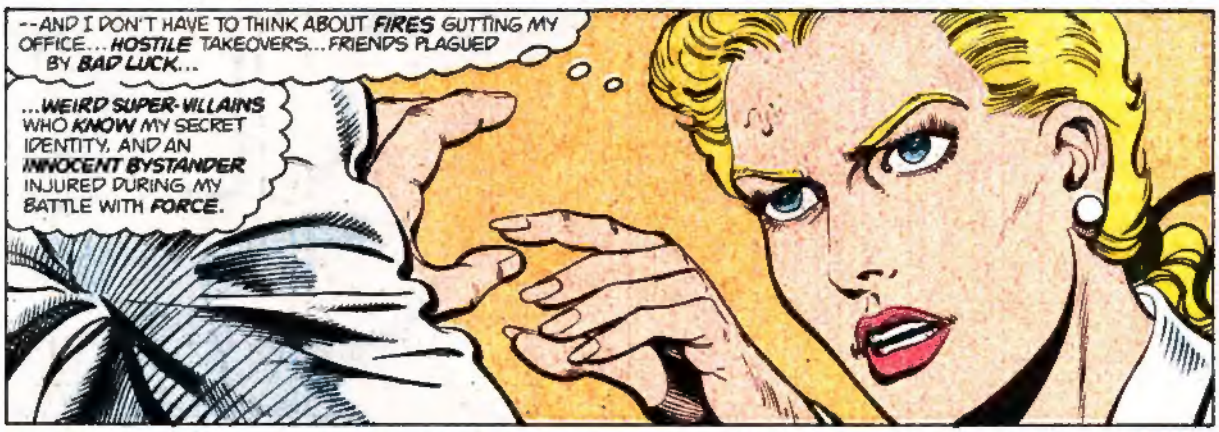

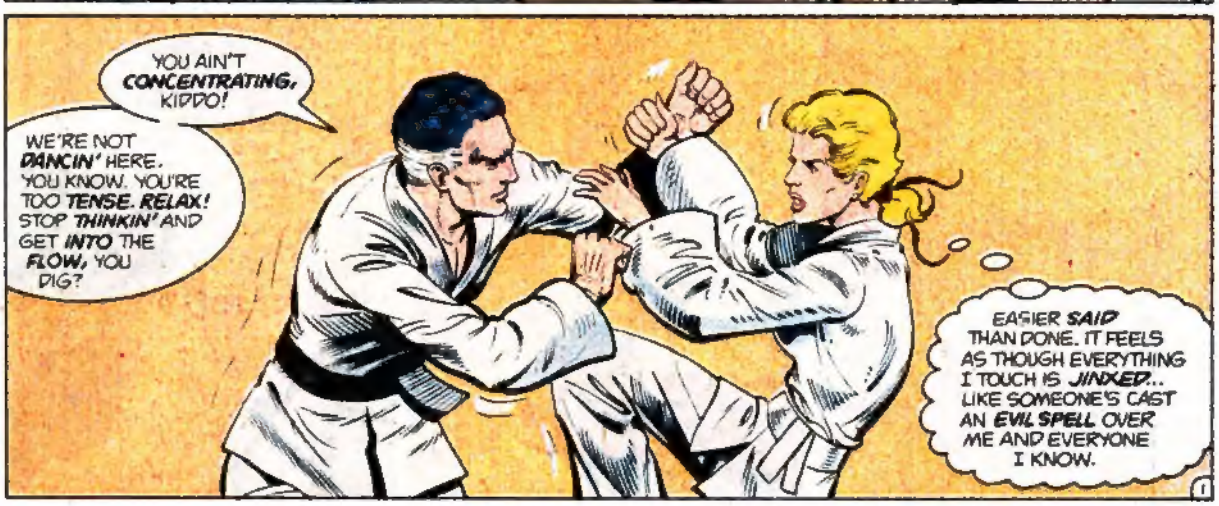

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YOU'RE JUST NOT GETTING IT, STARR. YOU'VE GOT ALL THE MOVES OF A CHAMP--

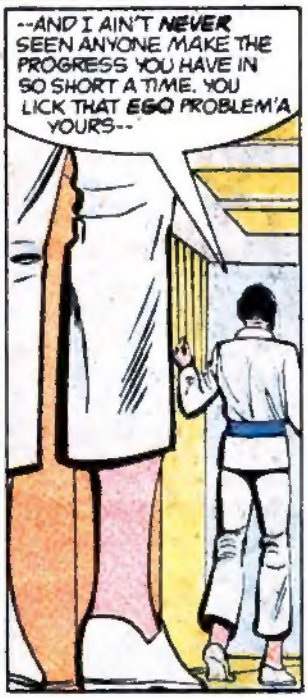
--BUT THE ATTENTION SPAN OF A CHIMP!
UHHRK!
YOU THINK BY MASTERING THE PHYSICAL, YOU'RE AN EXPERT...

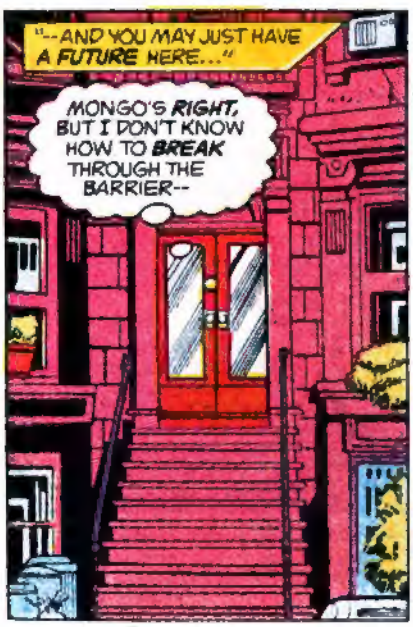
...BUT THAT AIN'T THE WAY IT WORKS!
I...I SEE YOUR POINT.

NO, YOU DON'T. LOOK, HOW MANY TIMES I GOTTA TELL YOU--KARATE'S ONLY 2% ABOUT FIGHTING. THE REST IS IN HERE... IN THE GUT.
YOU'RE ONLY LEARNIN' THE MOVES TO DISCIPLINE THE BODY AND MIND.

WITHOUT THAT, YOU'VE GOT NOTHIN'.
AM I REALLY THAT PITIFUL, MONGO?

NO, YOU'RE THAT GOOD... AT LEAST YOU COULD BE.
I'VE TAUGHT THIS STUFF TO THOUSANDS IN THE MARINES AND IN SCHOOLS--


--AND I AIN'T NEVER SEEN ANYONE MAKE THE PROGRESS YOU HAVE IN SO SHORT A TIME. YOU LICK THAT EGO PROBLEM'A YOURS--


"--AND YOU MAY JUST HAVE A FUTURE HERE..."
MONGO'S RIGHT, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO BREAK THROUGH THE BARRIER--

--OR EVEN WHERE TO FIND IT. THERE'S JUST SO MUCH GOING ON...
HI, NEIGHBOR. HOW'S THE KUNG FU GOING?

IT'S KARATE AND IT'S GOING FINE. HOW'RE YOU, CARRIE?
NOT BAD. REMEMBER I TOLD YOU I'D PLACED A PERSONALS AD, TO MEET GUYS?

WELL, GUESS WHO GOT ANSWERS TODAY? IT'S REALLY NEAT... A DOZEN CHANCES TO MEET A NEW GUY ALL IN ONE ENVELOPE.
SOUNDS LIKE FUN. YOU GOING TO LET ME PEEK AT THE LETTERS?
I CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT, LADY. I...
RINGGG
RINGGG

'SCUSE ME, CARRIE. SOUNDS LIKE MY PHONE. I MUST'VE FORGOTTEN TO TURN ON MY MACHINE. I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER, OKAY?
SURE THING, KIDDO.
RINGGG

GUESS YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT TO SEE THE RESPONSES YOU GOT FROM THE AD I PLACED FOR YOU.
'COURSE, I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M SO ANXIOUS TO GIVE IT TO HER--SHE'S PROBABLY GOING TO KILL ME...!
Ms. Karen Starr
c/o Carrie Phillips
18 Garfield Place
Apt. #1
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11215

HELLO. HELLO?
NOBODY THERE... AND THE MACHINE IS ON. WONDER WHAT THE PROBLEM IS...?

WELL YOU MAY ASSSK, WOMAN. LOOK BEHIND YOU FOR YOUR ANSSSWER!
WHO?

HERITAGE!

RICK HOBERG
PENCILLER

PAUL KUPPERBERG
WRITER

ARNE STARR
INKER

BOB PINAHA
LETTERER

JULIANNA FERRITER
COLORIST

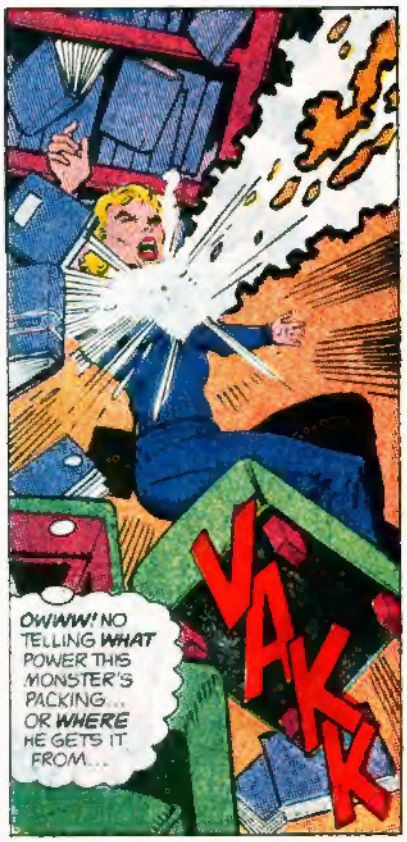
ROBERT GREENBERGER
CROSS CHANNELER

ISsS IT, WOMAN? ISsS NOT THE SsSTING OF MY MAGIC REAL?
TOO REAL!

I...I'M SUPPOSED TO BE PRETTY MUCH INVULNERABLE TO MOST THINGS...BUT THIS HURTS!

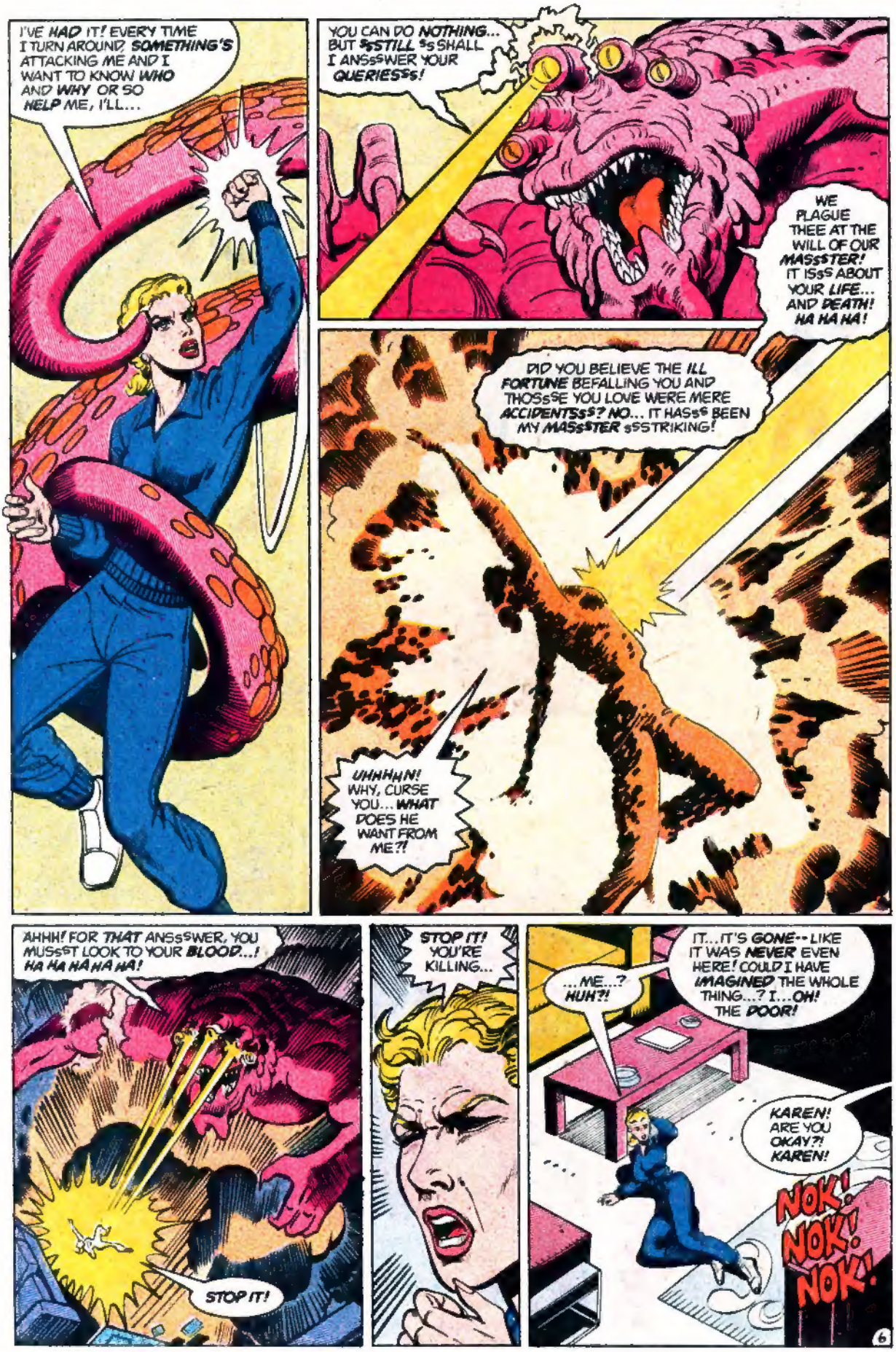
CAN'T LET IT STOP ME...
DO I UNDERESsSTIMATE YOU, WOMAN? AYE...

FHHHTT!
...BUT 'TISsS NOT AN ERROR I SsSHALL REPEAT!


OWWW! NO TELLING WHAT POWER THIS MONSTER'S PACKING... OR WHERE HE GETS IT FROM...
VAKK

...BUT, I KNOW WHAT I'VE GOT AND IT'S TIME I SHOWED THIS THING I'M NO PUSHOVER!
HA HA HA! YOUR THOUGHTSsS ARE ASsS AN OPEN BOOK TO ME, GIRL...

...AND I FIND YOUR BRAVADO REFRESsSHING... BUT SsSADLY MISsPLACED! HA HA HA HA!
HIS TAIL...!

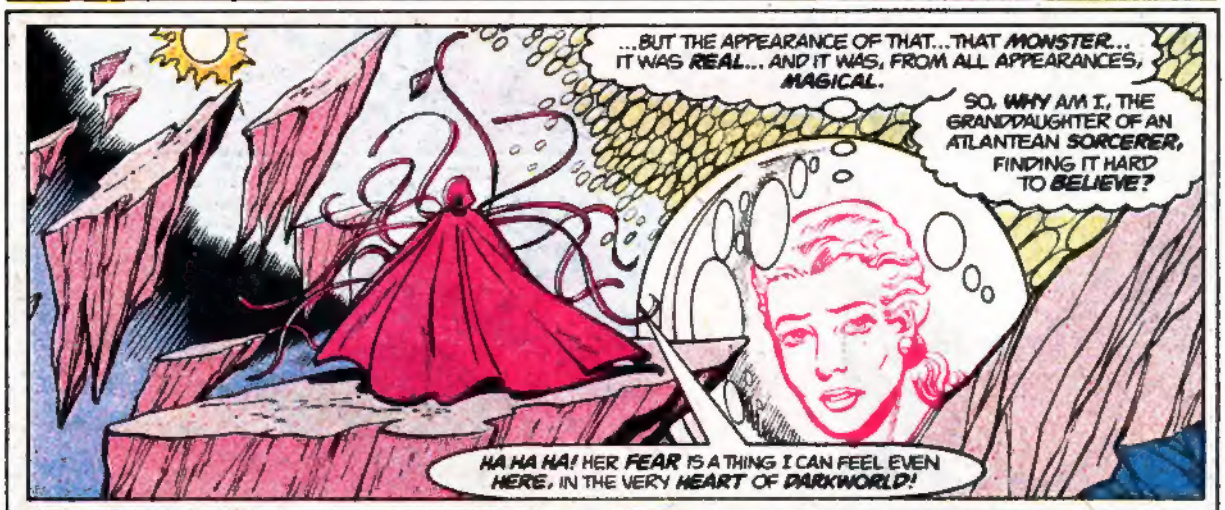

I'VE HAD IT! EVERY TIME I TURN AROUND, SOMETHING'S ATTACKING ME AND I WANT TO KNOW WHO AND WHY OR SO HELP ME, I'LL...
YOU CAN DO NOTHING... BUT ssSTILL ssS SHALL I ANSssWER YOUR QUERIESss!
WE PLAGUE THEE AT THE WILL OF OUR MASSSTER! IT ISsS ABOUT YOUR LIFE... AND DEATH! HA HA HA!
DID YOU BELIEVE THE ILL FORTUNE BEFALLING YOU AND THOSsSE YOU LOVE WERE MERE ACCIDENTSssS? NO... IT HASssS BEEN MY MASssTER ssSTRIKING!
UHHHHN! WHY, CURSE YOU... WHAT DOES HE WANT FROM ME?!
AHHH! FOR THAT ANSsSWER, YOU MUSssT LOOK TO YOUR BLOOD...! HA HA HA HA HA!
STOP IT!
STOP IT! YOU'RE KILLING...
...ME...? HUH?!
IT...IT'S GONE--LIKE IT WAS NEVER EVEN HERE! COULD I HAVE IMAGINED THE WHOLE THING...? I...OH! THE DOOR!
KAREN! ARE YOU OKAY?! KAREN!
NOK! NOK! NOK!

GARTH! WHAT'S ALL THE SHOUTING ABOUT, NEIGHBOR?
THAT'S WHAT I WANNA KNOW, KAREN! I HEARD NOISE... AND YOU SCREAM. YOU OKAY?
OH... I... I GOT A SHOCK WHEN I TOUCHED MY ANSWERING MACHINE... GUESS IT SURPRISED ME.

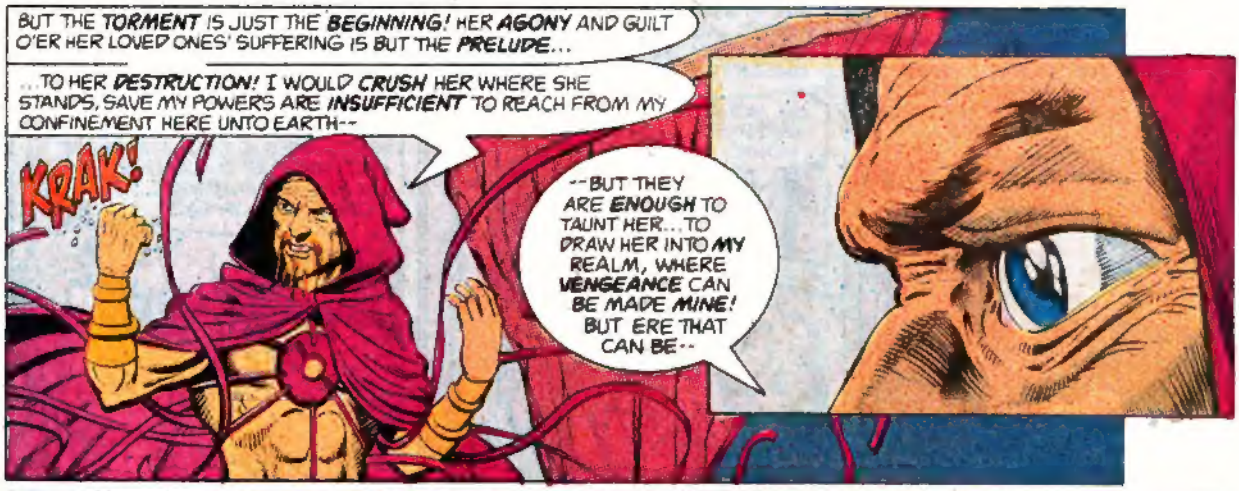
WHEW! I WAS EXPECTING THE WORST... AS PER USUAL AROUND HERE LATELY. IT'S BEEN ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE DAYS.
OH, NO! WHAT HAPPENED NOW?

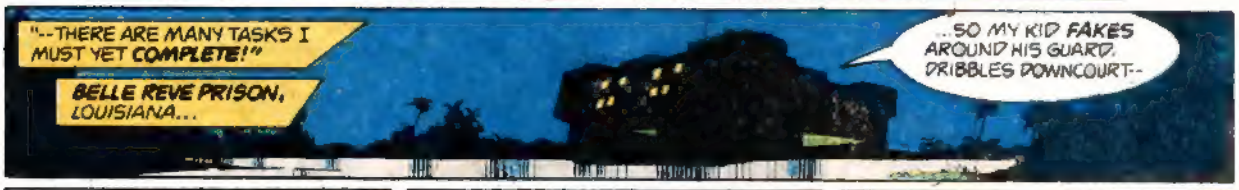
REMEMBER THAT GALLERY THAT'S GONNA SHOW MY PAINTINGS STARTING FRIDAY? WELL, WE HUNG THE PAINTINGS LAST NIGHT--
--AND THIS AFTERNOON, THE WATERPIPES IN THE PLACE BURST AND FLOODED THE WHOLE GALLERY. MY PAINTINGS... GONZO! ALL OF 'EM!

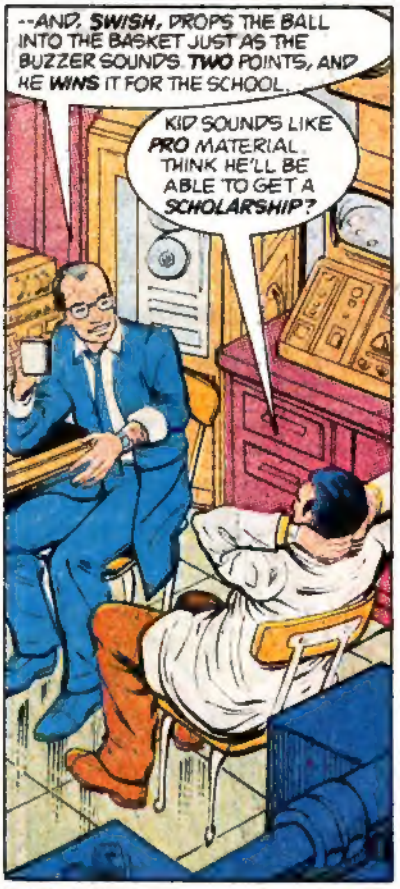
SIGH! I KNEW I SHOULDN'T'VE WORKED IN WATER-COLORS...
I'M SO SORRY, GARTH. I KNOW HOW MUCH THIS SHOWING MEANT FOR YOU.
NOT THEM... JUST ME. I WAS ONLY USING A FIGURE OF SPEECH WHEN I THOUGHT ABOUT BEING UNDER A BLACK SPELL...
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN IT WAS TOO GOOD TO LAST. WE'RE ALL JINXED. EVERYBODY IN THIS FREAKIN' BUILDING'S JINXED!

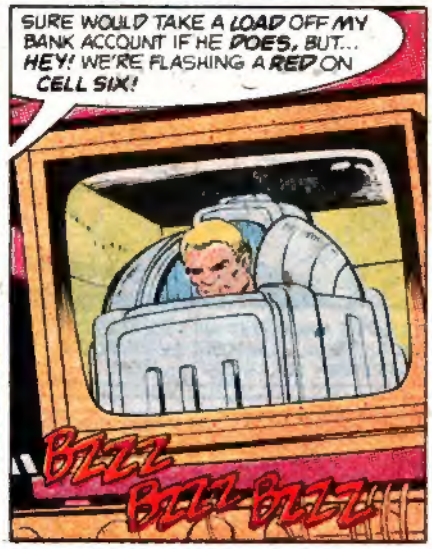

...BUT THE APPEARANCE OF THAT... THAT MONSTER... IT WAS REAL... AND IT WAS, FROM ALL APPEARANCES, MAGICAL.
SO, WHY AM I, THE GRANDDAUGHTER OF AN ATLANTEAN SORCERER, FINDING IT HARD TO BELIEVE?
HA HA HA! HER FEAR IS A THING I CAN FEEL EVEN HERE, IN THE VERY HEART OF DARKWORLD!

LET HER SUFFER! HA HA HA!
SHE, THE LAST REMAINING DESCENDANT OF MY HATED FOE, ARION... WHO SHALL PAY FOR HIS CRIMES AGAINST ME!

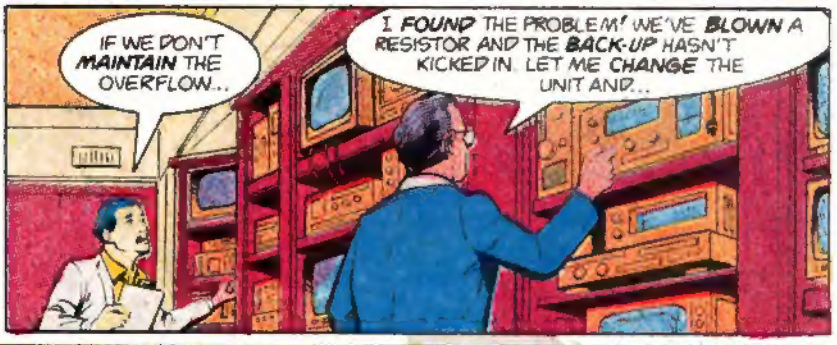

BUT THE TORMENT IS JUST THE BEGINNING! HER AGONY AND GUILT O'ER HER LOVED ONES' SUFFERING IS BUT THE PRELUDE...
...TO HER DESTRUCTION! I WOULD CRUSH HER WHERE SHE STANDS, SAVE MY POWERS ARE INSUFFICIENT TO REACH FROM MY CONFINEMENT HERE UNTO EARTH--
KRAK!
--BUT THEY ARE ENOUGH TO TAUNT HER...TO DRAW HER INTO MY REALM, WHERE VENGEANCE CAN BE MADE MINE! BUT ERE THAT CAN BE--


"--THERE ARE MANY TASKS I MUST YET COMPLETE!"
BELLE REVE PRISON, LOUISIANA...
...SO MY KID FAKES AROUND HIS GUARD, DRIBBLES DOWNCOURT--

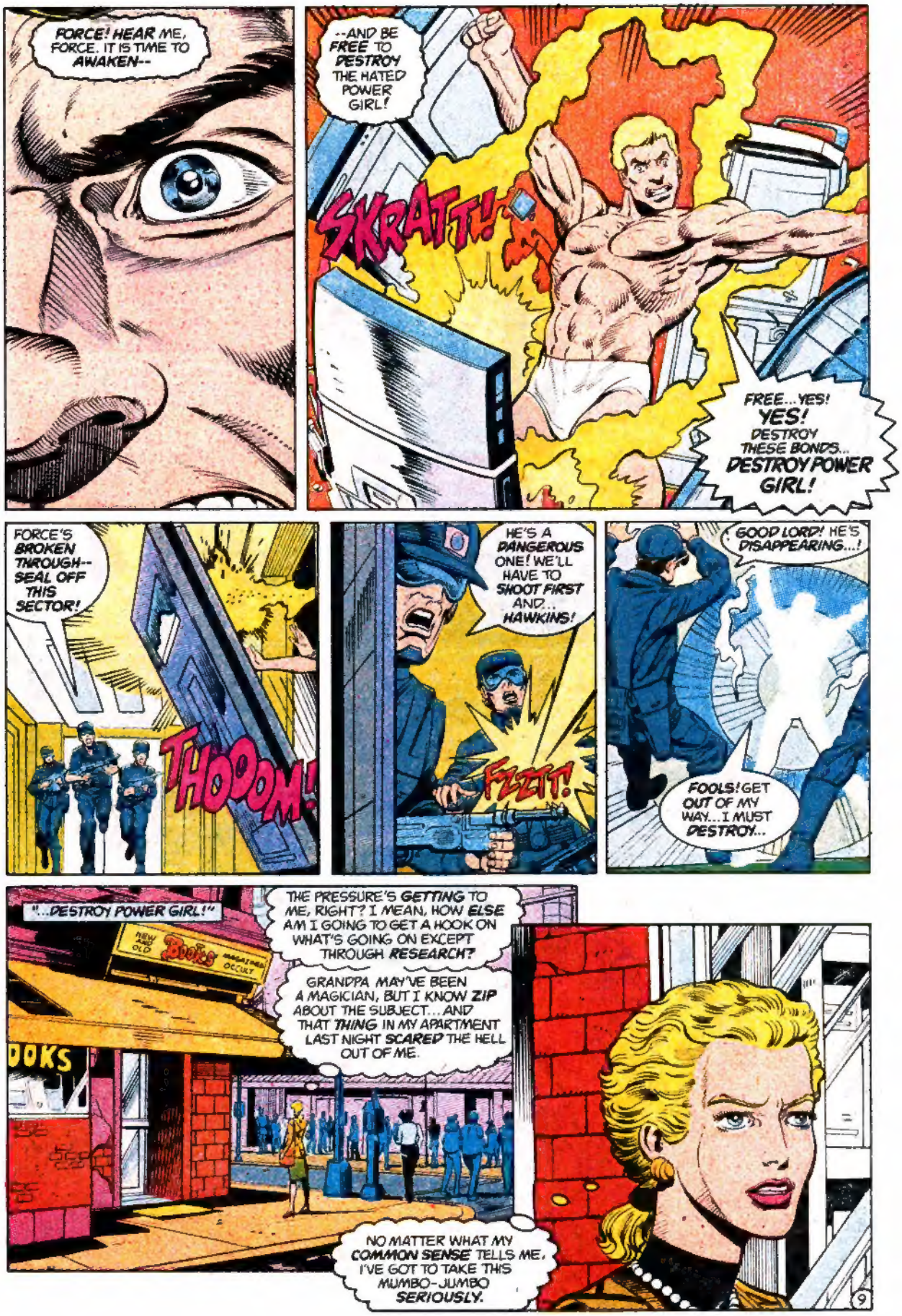

--AND, SWISH, DROPS THE BALL INTO THE BASKET JUST AS THE BUZZER SOUNDS TWO POINTS, AND HE WINS IT FOR THE SCHOOL.
KID SOUNDS LIKE PRO MATERIAL. THINK HE'LL BE ABLE TO GET A SCHOLARSHIP?

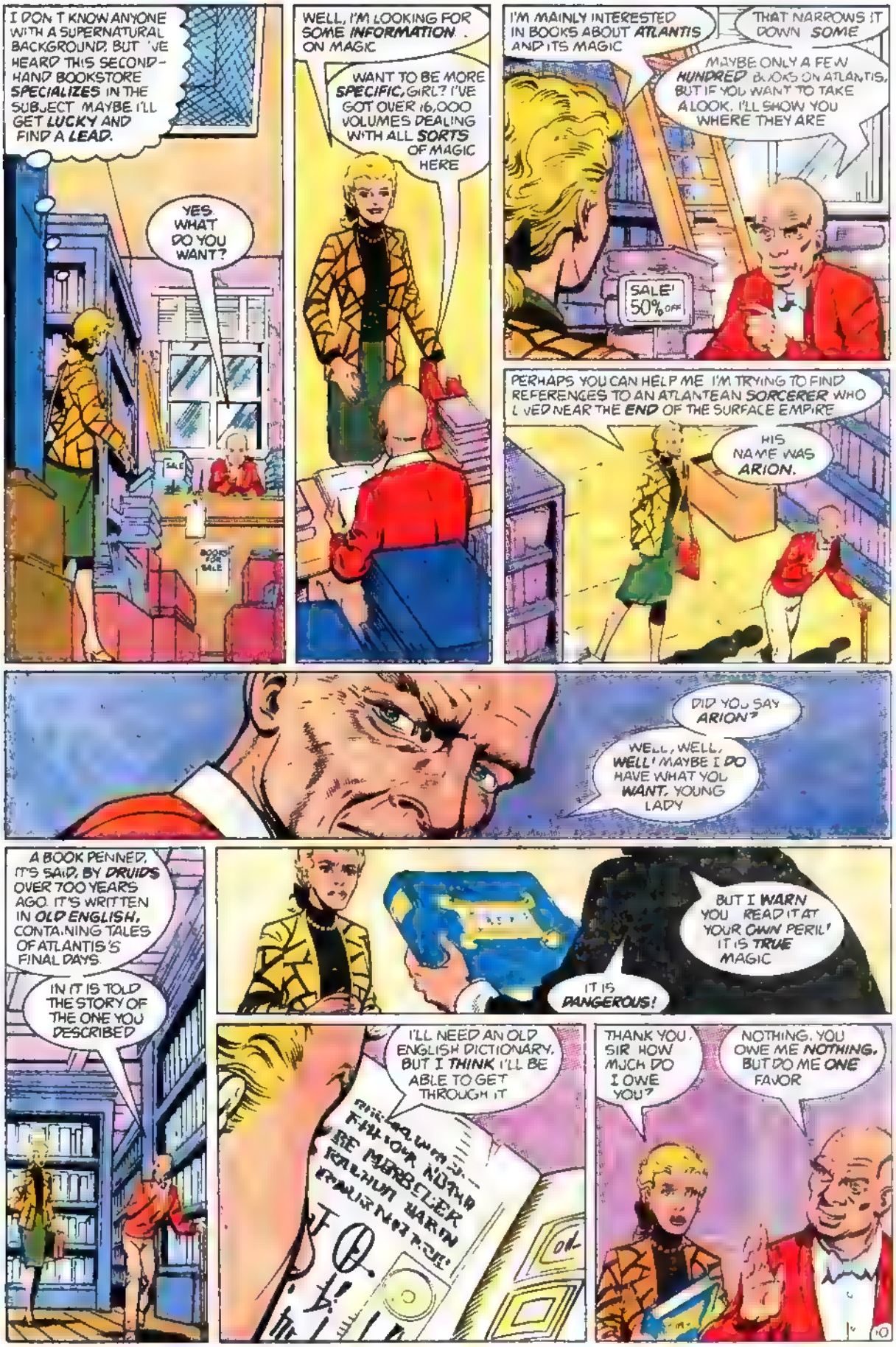

SURE WOULD TAKE A LOAD OFF MY BANK ACCOUNT IF HE DOES, BUT... HEY! WE'RE FLASHING A RED ON CELL SIX!
BZZZ BZZZ-BZZZ!!!

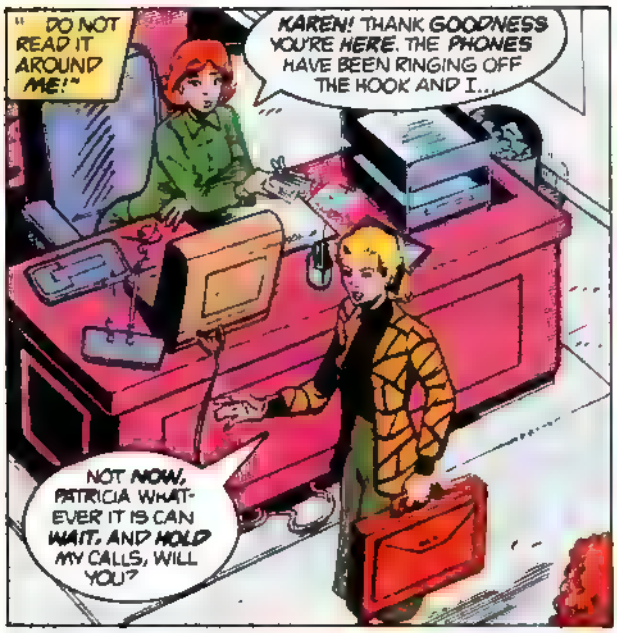
THAT'S FORCE'S CELL. THERE'S A FLUX IN THE ELECTRICAL CURRENT THAT'S KEEPING HIM IMMOBILIZED.
BETTER CALL IN MURPH'S BOYS!

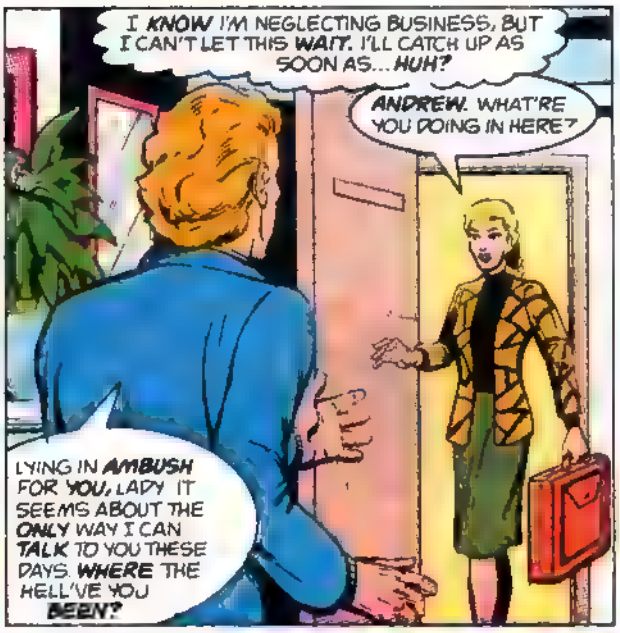

IF WE DON'T MAINTAIN THE OVERFLOW...
I FOUND THE PROBLEM! WE'VE BLOWN A RESISTOR AND THE BACK-UP HASN'T KICKED IN. LET ME CHANGE THE UNIT AND...

BA-WHOOOOM!


FORCE! HEAR ME, FORCE. IT IS TIME TO AWAKEN--
--AND BE FREE TO DESTROY THE HATED POWER GIRL!
SKRATT!
FREE...YES! YES! DESTROY THESE BONDS... DESTROY POWER GIRL!
FORCE'S BROKEN THROUGH-- SEAL OFF THIS SECTOR!
THOOOM!
HE'S A DANGEROUS ONE! WE'LL HAVE TO SHOOT FIRST AND... HAWKINS!
FZZIT!
GOOD LORD! HE'S DISAPPEARING...!
FOOLS! GET OUT OF MY WAY...I MUST DESTROY...
"...DESTROY POWER GIRL!"
NEW AND OLD Books MAGAZINES OCCULT
OOKS
THE PRESSURE'S GETTING TO ME, RIGHT? I MEAN, HOW ELSE AM I GOING TO GET A HOOK ON WHAT'S GOING ON EXCEPT THROUGH RESEARCH?
GRANDPA MAY'VE BEEN A MAGICIAN, BUT I KNOW ZIP ABOUT THE SUBJECT...AND THAT THING IN MY APARTMENT LAST NIGHT SCARED THE HELL OUT OF ME.
NO MATTER WHAT MY COMMON SENSE TELLS ME, I'VE GOT TO TAKE THIS MUMBO-JUMBO SERIOUSLY.


I DON'T KNOW ANYONE WITH A SUPERNATURAL BACKGROUND, BUT I'VE HEARD THIS SECOND-HAND BOOKSTORE SPECIALIZES IN THE SUBJECT. MAYBE I'LL GET LUCKY AND FIND A LEAD.
YES. WHAT DO YOU WANT?
SALE
BOOKS FOR SALE
WELL, I'M LOOKING FOR SOME INFORMATION ON MAGIC
WANT TO BE MORE SPECIFIC, GIRL? I'VE GOT OVER 16,000 VOLUMES DEALING WITH ALL SORTS OF MAGIC HERE
I'M MAINLY INTERESTED IN BOOKS ABOUT ATLANTIS AND ITS MAGIC
THAT NARROWS IT DOWN SOME
MAYBE ONLY A FEW HUNDRED BOOKS ON ATLANTIS, BUT IF YOU WANT TO TAKE A LOOK, I'LL SHOW YOU WHERE THEY ARE
SALE! 50% OFF
PERHAPS YOU CAN HELP ME. I'M TRYING TO FIND REFERENCES TO AN ATLANTEAN SORCERER WHO LIVED NEAR THE END OF THE SURFACE EMPIRE
HIS NAME WAS ARION.
DID YOU SAY ARION?
WELL, WELL, WELL! MAYBE I DO HAVE WHAT YOU WANT, YOUNG LADY
A BOOK PENNED, IT'S SAID, BY DRUIDS OVER 700 YEARS AGO. IT'S WRITTEN IN OLD ENGLISH, CONTAINING TALES OF ATLANTIS'S FINAL DAYS.
IN IT IS TOLD THE STORY OF THE ONE YOU DESCRIBED
BUT I WARN YOU. READ IT AT YOUR OWN PERIL! IT IS TRUE MAGIC
IT IS DANGEROUS!
I'LL NEED AN OLD ENGLISH DICTIONARY, BUT I THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO GET THROUGH IT
THANK YOU, SIR. HOW MUCH DO I OWE YOU?
NOTHING. YOU OWE ME NOTHING, BUT DO ME ONE FAVOR


" DO NOT READ IT AROUND ME!"
KAREN! THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE HERE. THE PHONES HAVE BEEN RINGING OFF THE HOOK AND I...
NOT NOW, PATRICIA WHATEVER IT IS CAN WAIT, AND HOLD MY CALLS, WILL YOU?


I KNOW I'M NEGLECTING BUSINESS, BUT I CAN'T LET THIS WAIT. I'LL CATCH UP AS SOON AS... HUH?
ANDREW. WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN HERE?
LYING IN AMBUSH FOR YOU, LADY IT SEEMS ABOUT THE ONLY WAY I CAN TALK TO YOU THESE DAYS. WHERE THE HELL'VE YOU BEEN?

I...HAD THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF WHAT'S ALL THE .?
THE BOARD MEETING, KAREN! IT WAS THIS MORNING. OR IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE, BUT YOU DIDN'T SHOW UP.
YOUR OWNERSHIP OF THIS COMPANY'S IN SERIOUS DANGER, AND HARLAN BROOKS IS THIS CLOSE TO CONVINCING THE BOARD TO SHUT YOU OUT!

I'M SORRY, ANDREW, REALLY I.. I HAD SOME OUTSIDE BUSINESS THAT COULDN'T WAIT
MORE IMPORTANT THAN STARRWARE'S FUTURE FOR CRYIN OUT LOUD?

YES.. I MEAN, NO. LOOK, WHAT HAPPENED AT THE MEETING?
NOTHING HAPPENED. I WAS LUCKY TO GET THEM TO AGREE TO MEET AGAIN NEXT WEEK, BUT IF YOU MISS THAT ONE...

. THEY'RE NOT GOING TO BE SO CONSIDERATE. I'M TELLING YOU THIS AS YOUR LAWYER AND YOUR FRIEND, KAREN YOU'RE ON THIN ICE HERE. DON'T SCREW IT UP!
AS YOUR CLIENT AND YOUR FRIEND, I HEAR YOU, ANDREW. NOW, GET OUT OF HERE, WILL YOU? I'VE GOT WORK TO DO.

ALL RIGHT! LET'S SEE WHAT THIS PUPPY HAS TO OFFER.

I'VE DONE A LITTLE READING IN OLD ENGLISH LITERATURE, AND WITH THIS DICTIONARY, I OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO MUDDLE THROUGH...

"..And the legends tell of **Arion**, the master sorcerer who lived once at the **birth** of the Atlantean Empire, and who came again in the age of its **death**, offspring of the god **Calculha** whose hand helped **shape** the Earth

"Full of his exploits are the Chronicles of Choloh, recorder of the Universe... for while the manna was **strong** upon the earthly plane, **mighty** was Arion's magics. But when the time of magic **dimmed**, so did his power--

"--And he grew old and took for his wife the Lady Chian ere he passed his knowledge unto his son and grand-daughter, and the magical dynasty did live on.

"..Until the day Atlantis died beneath the angry seas and the legends perished with the million-year-empire.

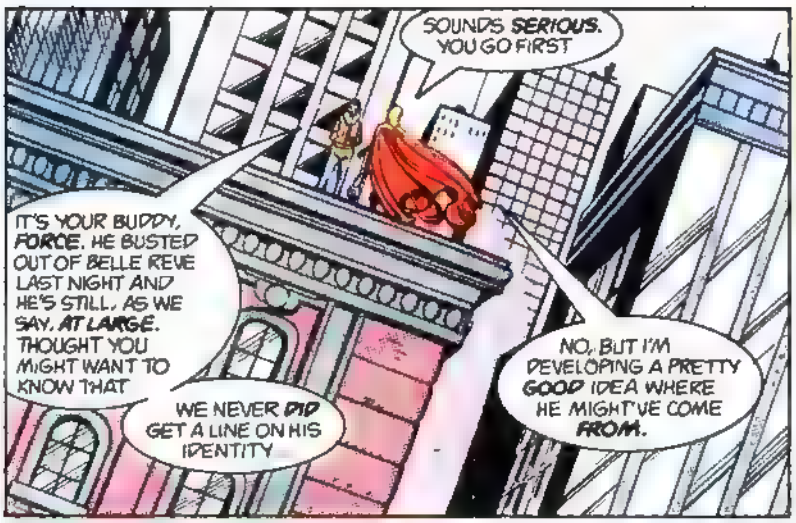
"Gorn Doanuth...Black Majestra... The Weaver...Chaon...dark gods of Evil were they--

"--Consigned to death or eternal **Darkworld** by his power and light

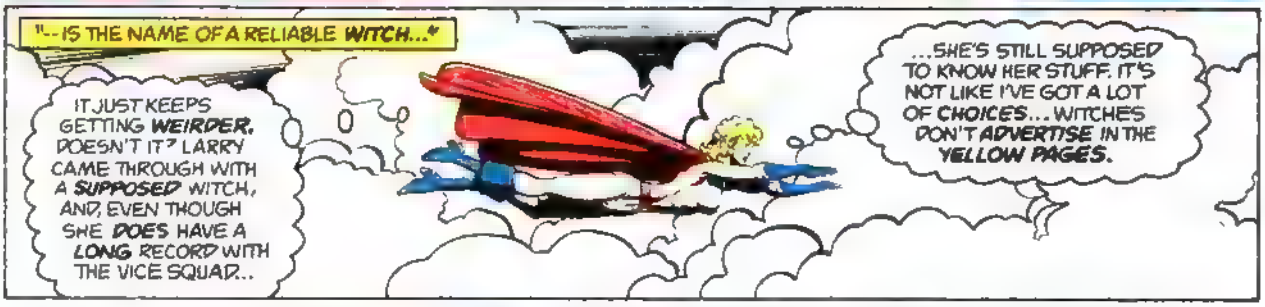
"..Until he too, mayhap, died and his days in that shadowed realm... his fate is **lost** to the ages."

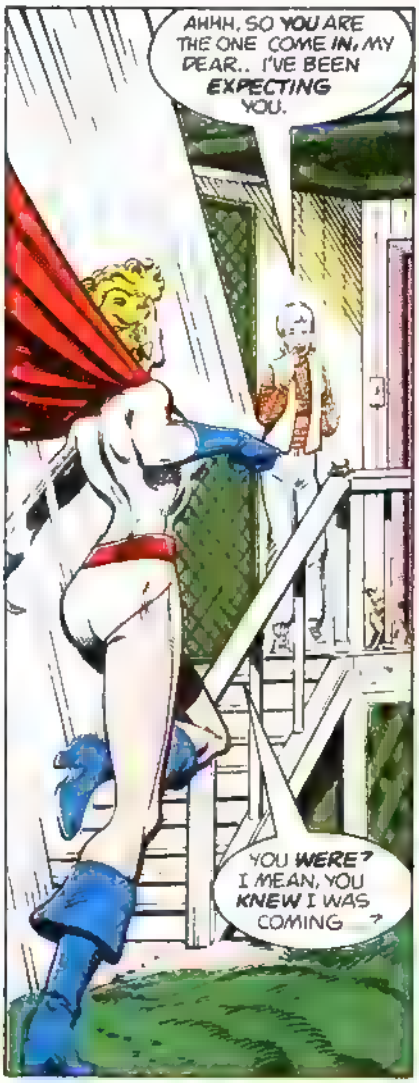
HELLO, **LARRY**. THANKS FOR MEETING ME ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE.

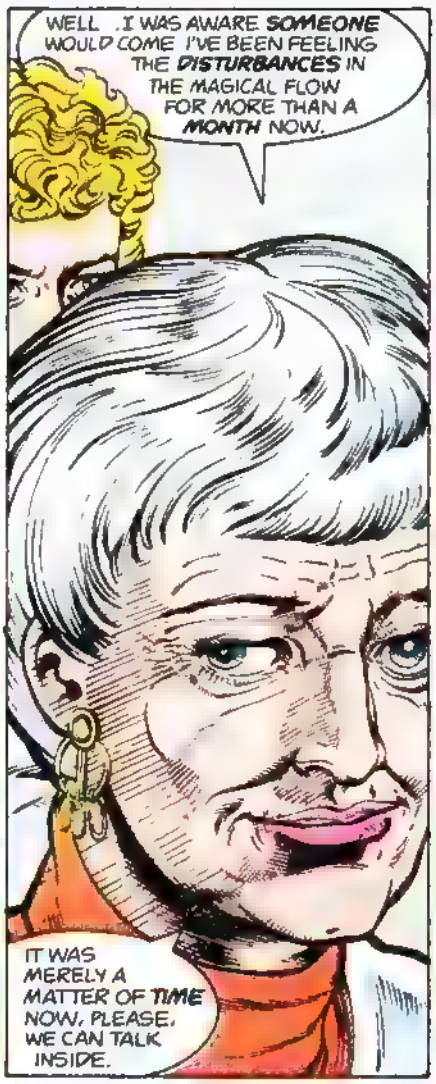
NO SWEAT, POWER GIRL. THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S **AT** YOUR SERVICE. BESIDES, I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU.


SOUNDS SERIOUS. YOU GO FIRST
IT'S YOUR BUDDY, FORCE. HE BUSTED OUT OF BELLE REVE LAST NIGHT AND HE'S STILL, AS WE SAY, AT LARGE. THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW THAT
WE NEVER DID GET A LINE ON HIS IDENTITY
NO, BUT I'M DEVELOPING A PRETTY GOOD IDEA WHERE HE MIGHT'VE COME FROM.

OH, YEAH? WANNA FILL ME IN ON IT?
YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME IF I TOLD YOU, FRIEND. LISTEN, WHAT I NEED FROM YOU--


"--IS THE NAME OF A RELIABLE WITCH..."
IT JUST KEEPS GETTING WEIRDER, DOESN'T IT? LARRY CAME THROUGH WITH A SUPPOSED WITCH, AND, EVEN THOUGH SHE DOES HAVE A LONG RECORD WITH THE VICE SQUAD..
...SHE'S STILL SUPPOSED TO KNOW HER STUFF. IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE GOT A LOT OF CHOICES... WITCHES DON'T ADVERTISE IN THE YELLOW PAGES.


AHHH, SO YOU ARE THE ONE COME IN, MY DEAR.. I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.
YOU WERE? I MEAN, YOU KNEW I WAS COMING?

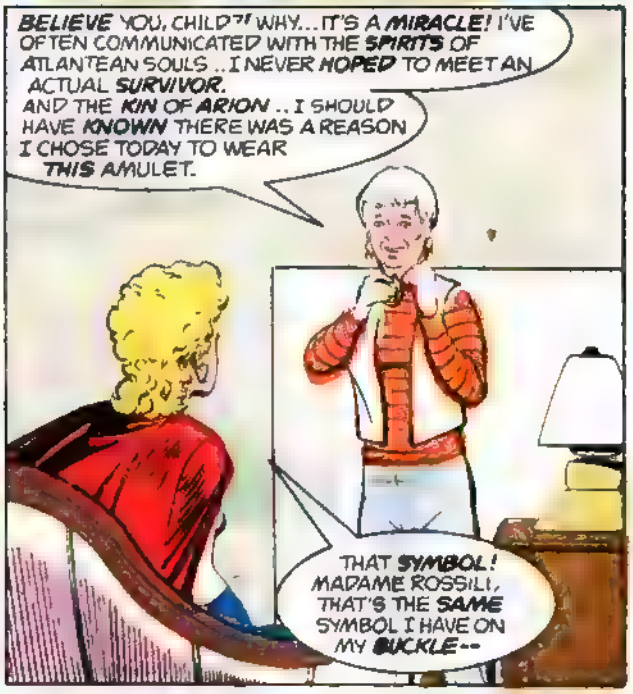

WELL .I WAS AWARE SOMEONE WOULD COME I'VE BEEN FEELING THE DISTURBANCES IN THE MAGICAL FLOW FOR MORE THAN A MONTH NOW.
IT WAS MERELY A MATTER OF TIME NOW, PLEASE, WE CAN TALK INSIDE.

IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR ME TO DETECT THESE DISTURBANCES, BUT THIS TIME I'VE BEEN FEELING THE LINES OF MAGIC DRAWING NEARER TO ME.
THEN YOU REALLY DO HAVE MAGICAL POWERS, MADAME ROSSILI?
MEOW

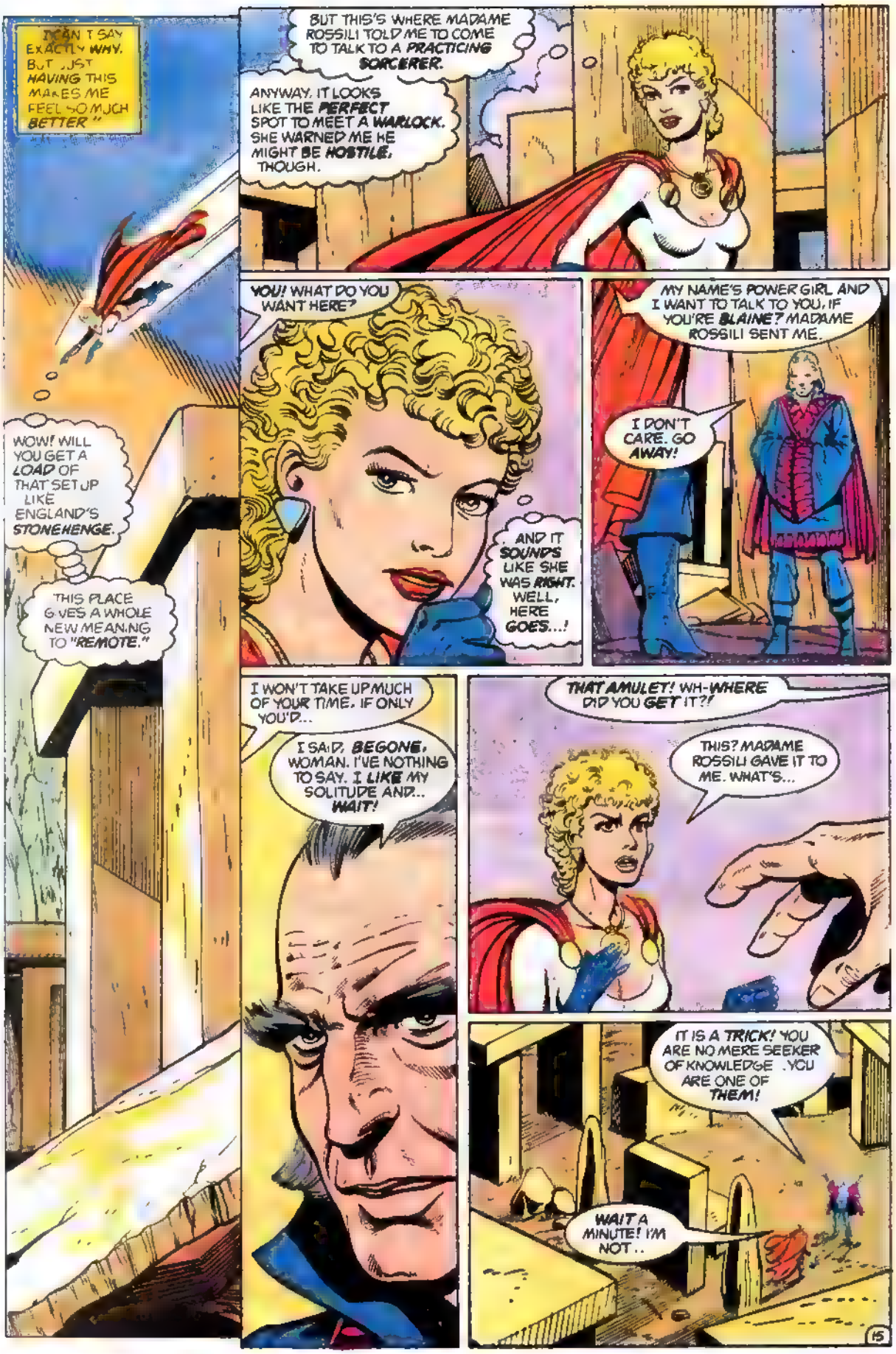
WHY, MY GOODNESS, **YES,** MY DEAR YOU'RE REFERRING TO MY, AHH, **INVOLVEMENT** WITH THE POLICE, AREN'T YOU? YOU SEE, I OFTEN **SHARE** SOME SMALL PART OF MY **GIFT** TO HELP OTHERS

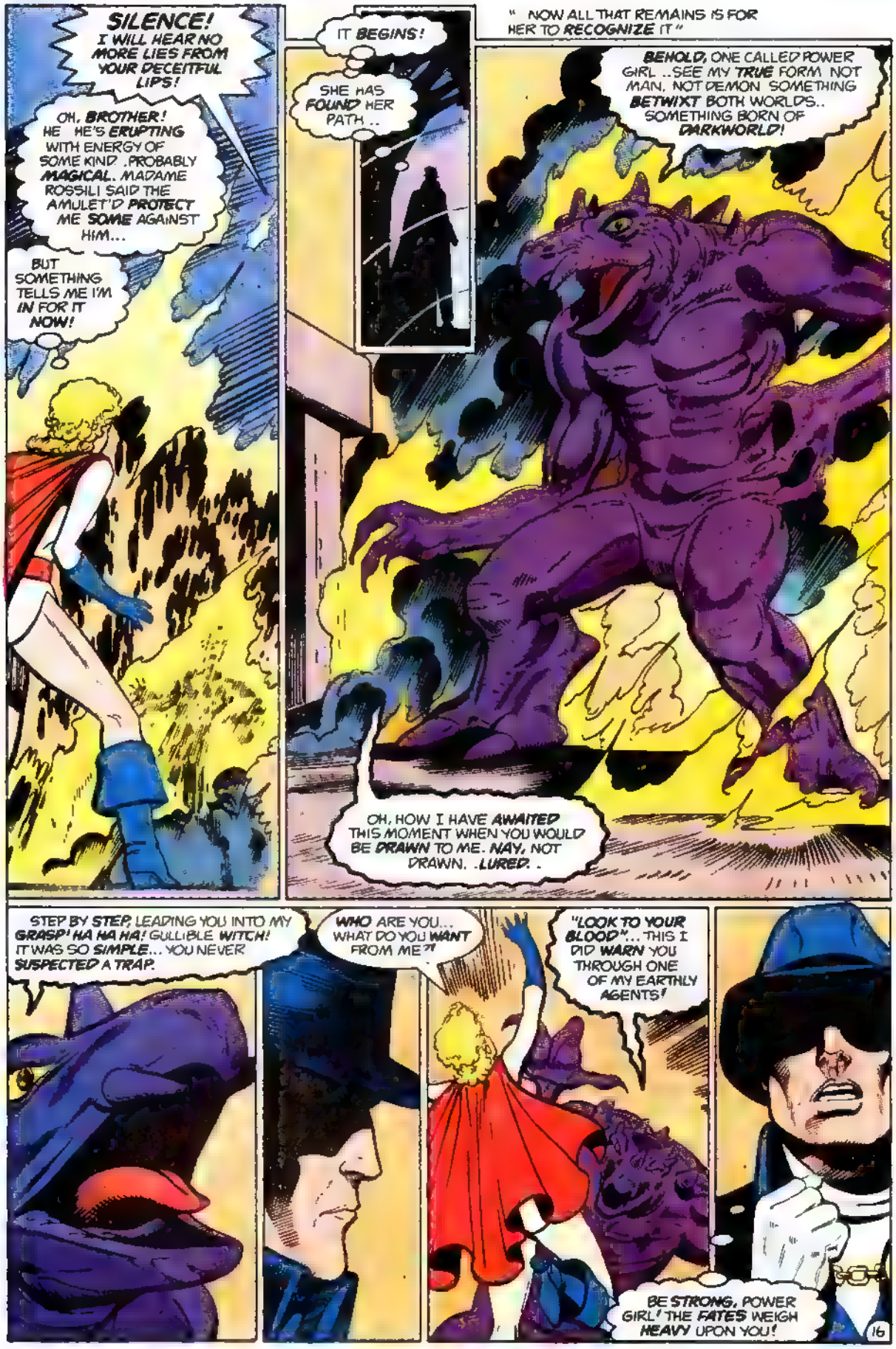
SOME REPAY MY KINDNESS WITH GIFTS OTHERS DON'T FIND WHAT I SHOW THEM TO THEIR LIKING AND ACCUSE ME OF **DISHONESTY.** NATURALLY, THE AUTHORITIES TAKE THE SIDE OF THE SUPPOSED **VICTIMS.** BUT **ENOUGH** OF ME. YOU HAVE A PROBLEM ..?

YES, MA'AM, AND I **PRAY** YOU'LL AT LEAST HEAR ME OUT. YOU SEE. I WAS BORN ..45,000 YEARS AGO, IN **ATLANTIS**...

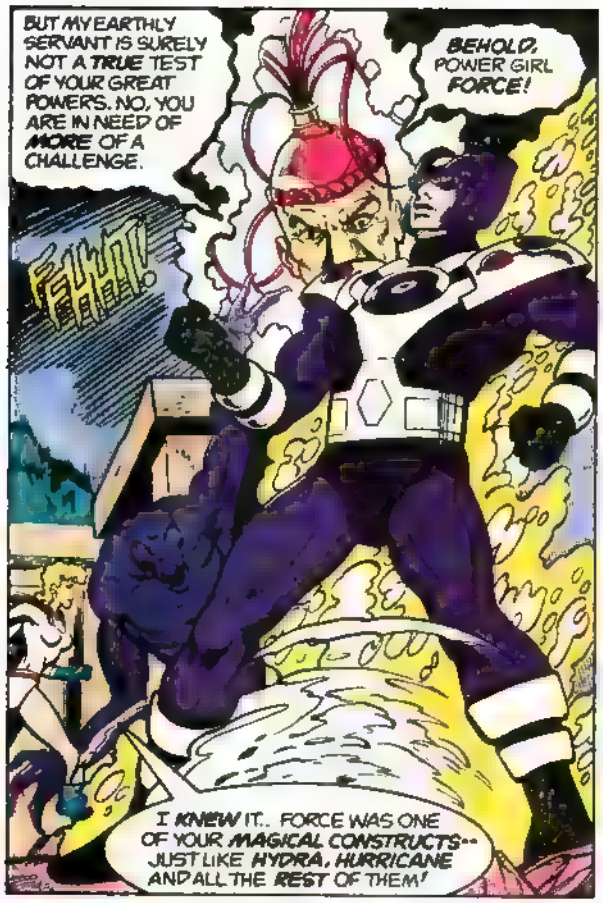


*SEE **SECRET ORIGINS #11.** --Bob

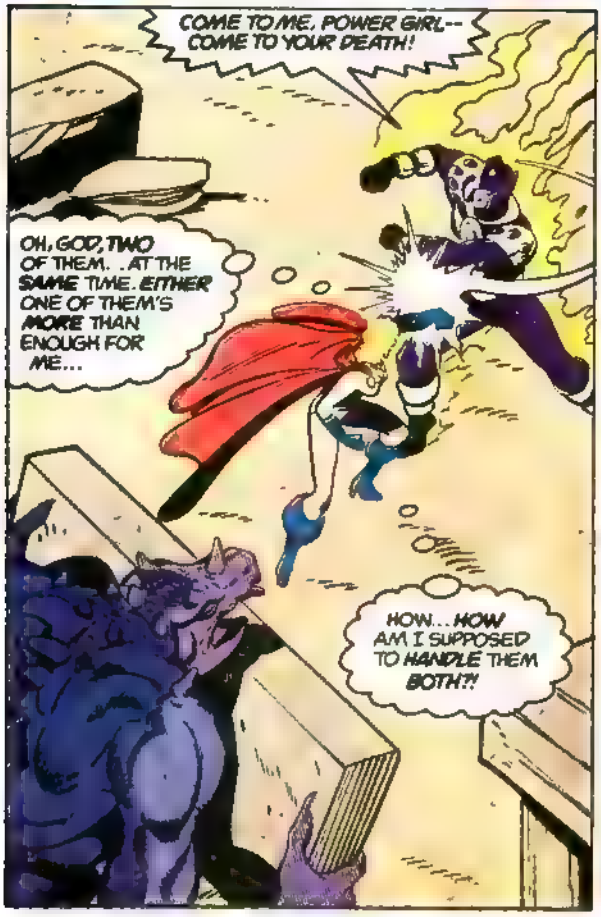

I CAN'T SAY EXACTLY WHY. BUT JUST HAVING THIS MAKES ME FEEL SO MUCH BETTER."
BUT THIS'S WHERE MADAME ROSSILI TOLD ME TO COME TO TALK TO A PRACTICING SORCERER.
ANYWAY, IT LOOKS LIKE THE PERFECT SPOT TO MEET A WARLOCK. SHE WARNED ME HE MIGHT BE HOSTILE, THOUGH.
WOW! WILL YOU GET A LOAD OF THAT SET UP LIKE ENGLAND'S STONEHENGE.
THIS PLACE GIVES A WHOLE NEW MEANING TO "REMOTE."
YOU! WHAT DO YOU WANT HERE?
AND IT SOUNDS LIKE SHE WAS RIGHT. WELL, HERE GOES...!
MY NAME'S POWER GIRL AND I WANT TO TALK TO YOU, IF YOU'RE BLAINE? MADAME ROSSILI SENT ME.
I DON'T CARE. GO AWAY!
I WON'T TAKE UP MUCH OF YOUR TIME, IF ONLY YOU'D...
I SAID, BEGONE, WOMAN. I'VE NOTHING TO SAY. I LIKE MY SOLITUDE AND... WAIT!
THAT AMULET! WH-WHERE DID YOU GET IT?!
THIS? MADAME ROSSILI GAVE IT TO ME. WHAT'S...
IT IS A TRICK! YOU ARE NO MERE SEEKER OF KNOWLEDGE. YOU ARE ONE OF THEM!
WAIT A MINUTE! I'M NOT..
15


SILENCE! I WILL HEAR NO MORE LIES FROM YOUR DECEITFUL LIPS!
OH, BROTHER! HE HE'S ERUPTING WITH ENERGY OF SOME KIND .PROBABLY MAGICAL. MADAME ROSSILI SAID THE AMULET'D PROTECT ME SOME AGAINST HIM...
BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME I'M IN FOR IT NOW!
IT BEGINS!
SHE HAS FOUND HER PATH ..
" NOW ALL THAT REMAINS IS FOR HER TO RECOGNIZE IT "
BEHOLD, ONE CALLED POWER GIRL ..SEE MY TRUE FORM NOT MAN, NOT DEMON SOMETHING BETWIXT BOTH WORLDS.. SOMETHING BORN OF DARKWORLD!
OH, HOW I HAVE AWAITED THIS MOMENT WHEN YOU WOULD BE DRAWN TO ME. NAY, NOT DRAWN. .LURED. .
STEP BY STEP, LEADING YOU INTO MY GRASP! HA HA HA! GULLIBLE WITCH! IT WAS SO SIMPLE... YOU NEVER SUSPECTED A TRAP.
WHO ARE YOU... WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?!
"LOOK TO YOUR BLOOD"... THIS I DID WARN YOU THROUGH ONE OF MY EARTHLY AGENTS!
BE STRONG, POWER GIRL! THE FATES WEIGH HEAVY UPON YOU!

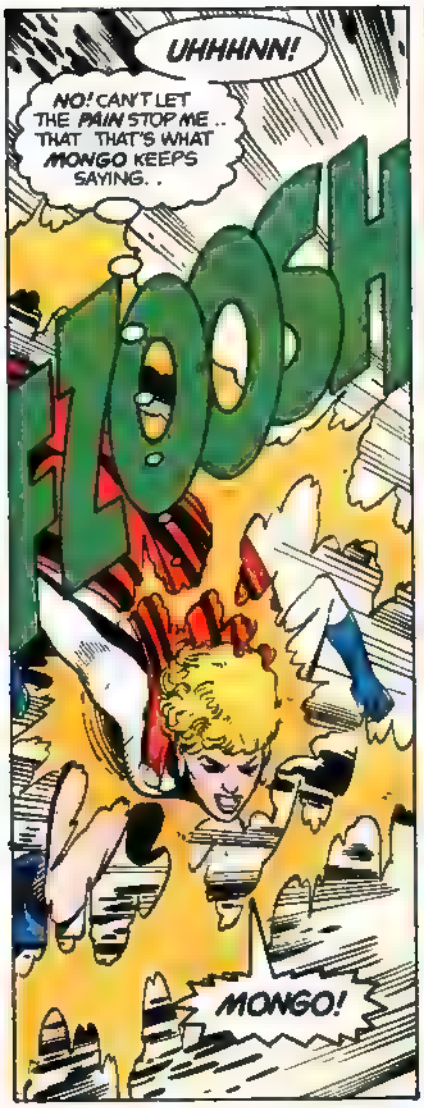
THAT DOESN'T TELL ME ANYTHING! I KNOW I COME FROM A MAGICAL BACKGROUND. . BUT THAT'S ALL I KNOW!
ARION SENT ME AWAY WHEN I WAS AN INFANT... I'M THE ONLY SURVIVOR OF AN ERA I DON'T REMEMBER!
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?!
SATISFACTION, DAUGHTER OF ARION!
REVENGE FOR WHAT WAS DONE TO ME... FOR HIS CONSIGNING ME TO AN ETERNITY OF SOLITUDE IN THE NEVER-ENDING HELL OF DARKWORLD.
IT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO TAKE MY VENGEANCE ON THE AUTHOR OF MY MISERY... BUT I AM A SIMPLE GOD. I HAVE SETTLED FOR YOU!
ZZZAP!

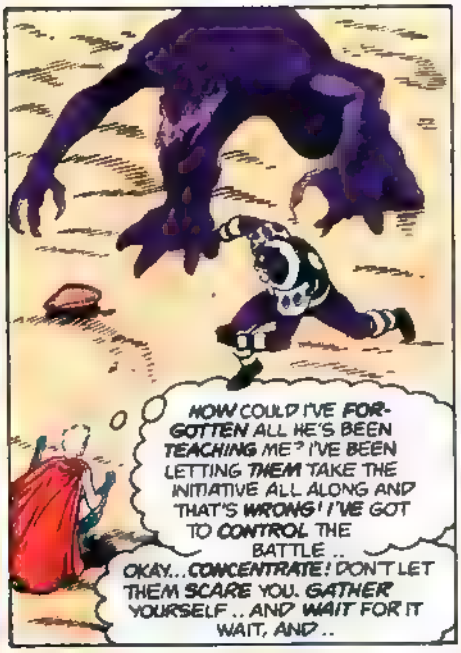

BUT MY EARTHLY SERVANT IS SURELY NOT A TRUE TEST OF YOUR GREAT POWERS. NO, YOU ARE IN NEED OF MORE OF A CHALLENGE.
BEHOLD, POWER GIRL FORCE!
FWUT!
I KNEW IT.. FORCE WAS ONE OF YOUR MAGICAL CONSTRUCTS-- JUST LIKE HYDRA, HURRICANE AND ALL THE REST OF THEM!

YOUR POWERS OF PERCEPTION ASTOUND ME! BUT THEN, IT SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE TO YOU THAT CONSTRUCT OR NOT...
..MY BRUTISH HELPER IS QUITE REAL... AND DEADLY!
POWER GIRL! DESTROY HER...!

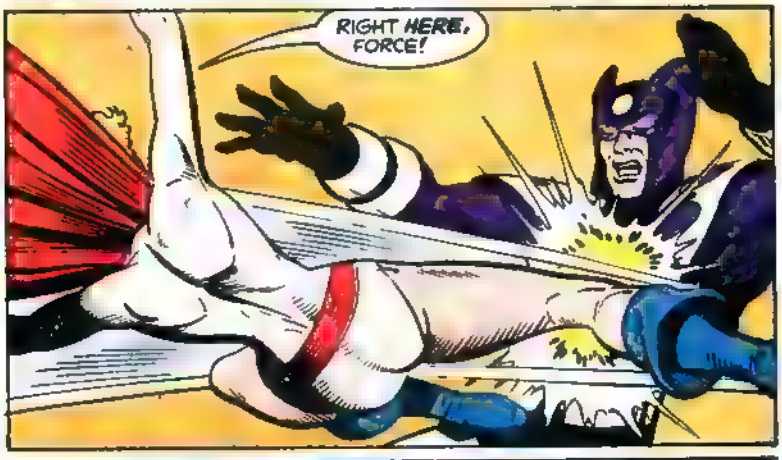

COME TO ME, POWER GIRL-- COME TO YOUR DEATH!
OH, GOD, TWO OF THEM. .AT THE SAME TIME. EITHER ONE OF THEM'S MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR ME...
HOW...HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO HANDLE THEM BOTH?!

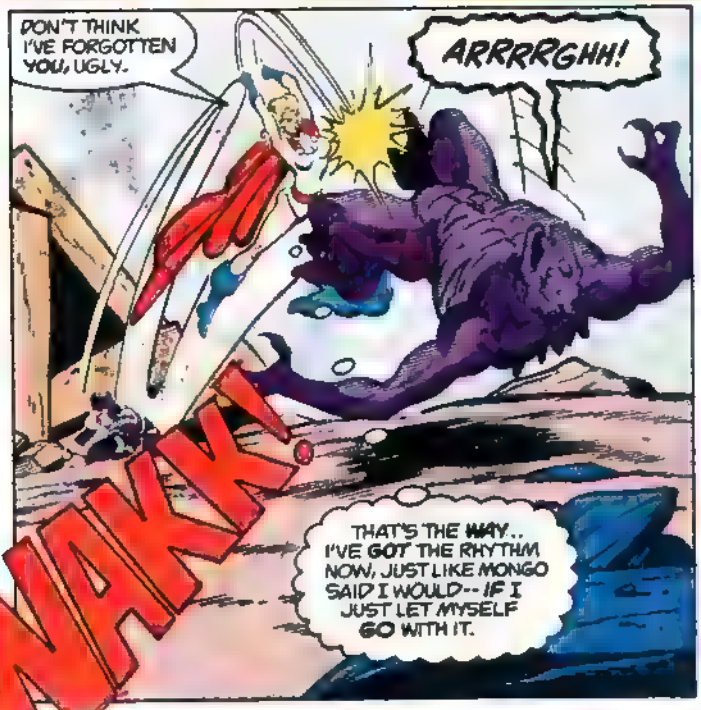
STRIKE, FORCE! USE YOUR MIGHT TO CRUSH POWER GIRL... AND PLEASE YOUR MASTER!
BLAINE'S ATTACKING!
BUT I CAN'T LET UP ON FORCE...THEY'VE GOT ME BOXED IN-- TRAPPED!


UHHHNN!
NO! CAN'T LET THE PAIN STOP ME .. THAT THAT'S WHAT MONGO KEEPS SAYING. .
LOOSH
MONGO!

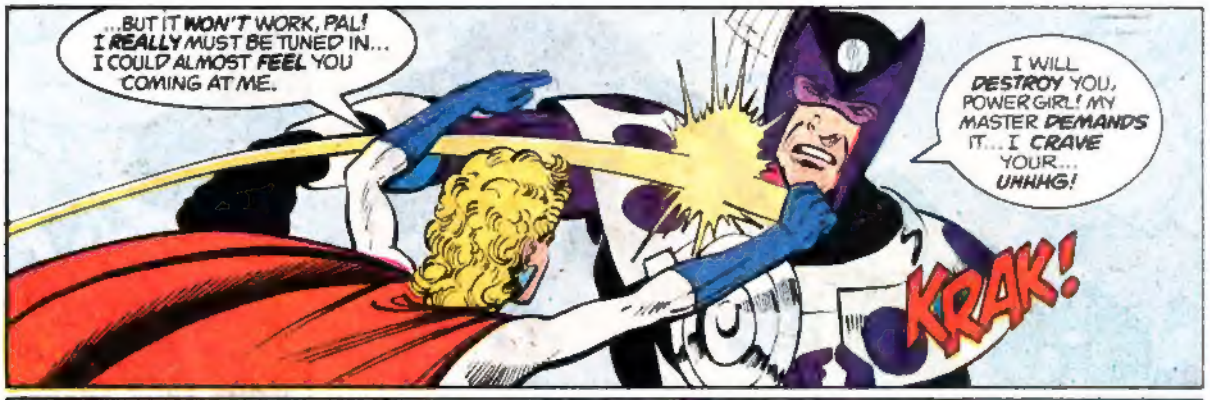

HOW COULD I'VE FORGOTTEN ALL HE'S BEEN TEACHING ME? I'VE BEEN LETTING THEM TAKE THE INITIATIVE ALL ALONG AND THAT'S WRONG! I'VE GOT TO CONTROL THE BATTLE ..
OKAY...CONCENTRATE! DON'T LET THEM SCARE YOU. GATHER YOURSELF .. AND WAIT FOR IT WAIT, AND ..

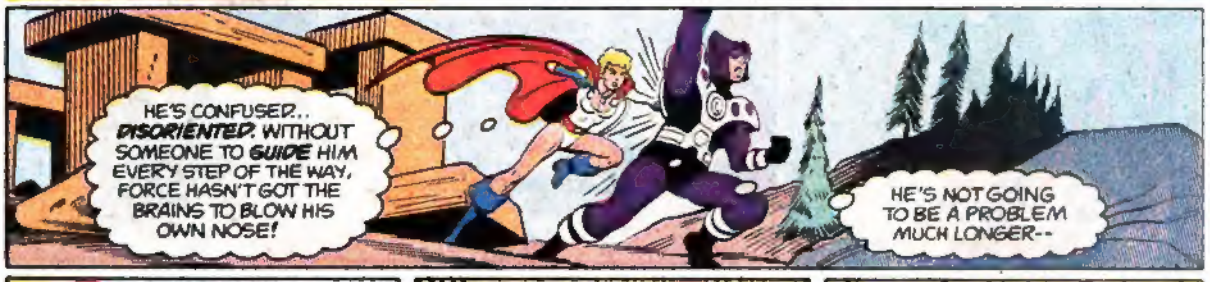
NOW, FORCE! SEIZE HER!
WHAT? WHERE DID SHE...?


RIGHT HERE, FORCE!


DON'T THINK I'VE FORGOTTEN YOU, UGLY.
ARRRRGHH!
WAKK!
THAT'S THE WAY.. I'VE GOT THE RHYTHM NOW, JUST LIKE MONGO SAID I WOULD-- IF I JUST LET MYSELF GO WITH IT.

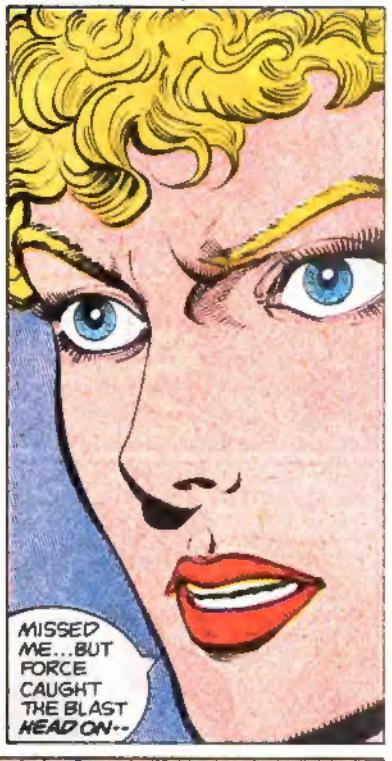
NO! CAN'T RELAX..NOT YET! I'VE GOT THE OFFENSIVE, BUT IT'S FAR FROM OVER. FORCE...HE'S MOVING--TRYING A SNEAK ATTACK...

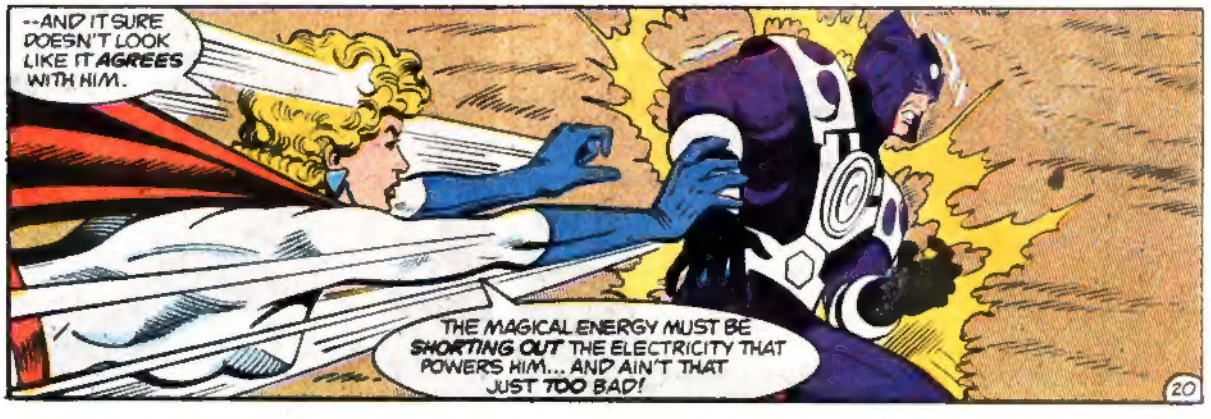

...BUT IT WON'T WORK, PAL! I REALLY MUST BE TUNED IN... I COULD ALMOST FEEL YOU COMING AT ME.
I WILL DESTROY YOU, POWER GIRL! MY MASTER DEMANDS IT... I CRAVE YOUR... UHHHG!
KRAK!

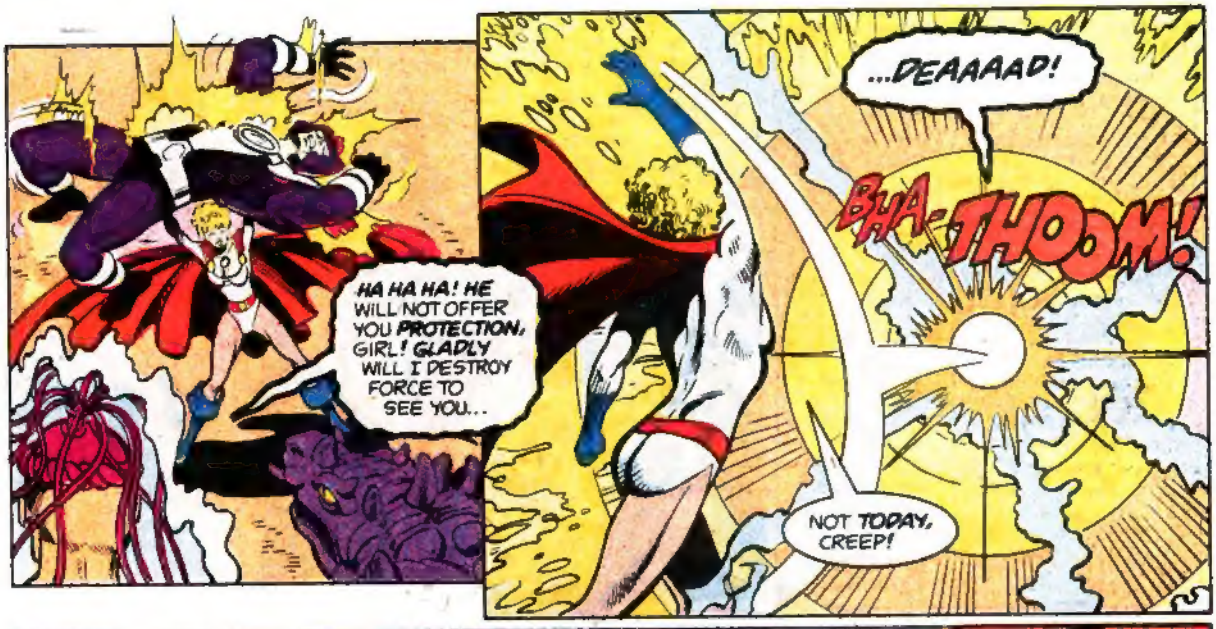

HE'S CONFUSED... DISORIENTED. WITHOUT SOMEONE TO GUIDE HIM EVERY STEP OF THE WAY, FORCE HASN'T GOT THE BRAINS TO BLOW HIS OWN NOSE!
HE'S NOT GOING TO BE A PROBLEM MUCH LONGER--

"--I ONLY WISH I COULD SAY THE SAME ABOUT BLAINE!"
CURSE MY WEAKNESS UPON THIS PLANE! TO MAINTAIN FORCE'S FORM WITH THE MAGICS I HAVE, I HAD TO SACRIFICE INTELLIGENCE.

HE'S THROWING A SPELL AT ME! HAVE TO DODGE...
AIIIIEEE!
WOOSH!


MISSED ME...BUT FORCE CAUGHT THE BLAST HEAD ON--


--AND IT SURE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT AGREES WITH HIM.
THE MAGICAL ENERGY MUST BE SHORTING OUT THE ELECTRICITY THAT POWERS HIM... AND AIN'T THAT JUST TOO BAD!

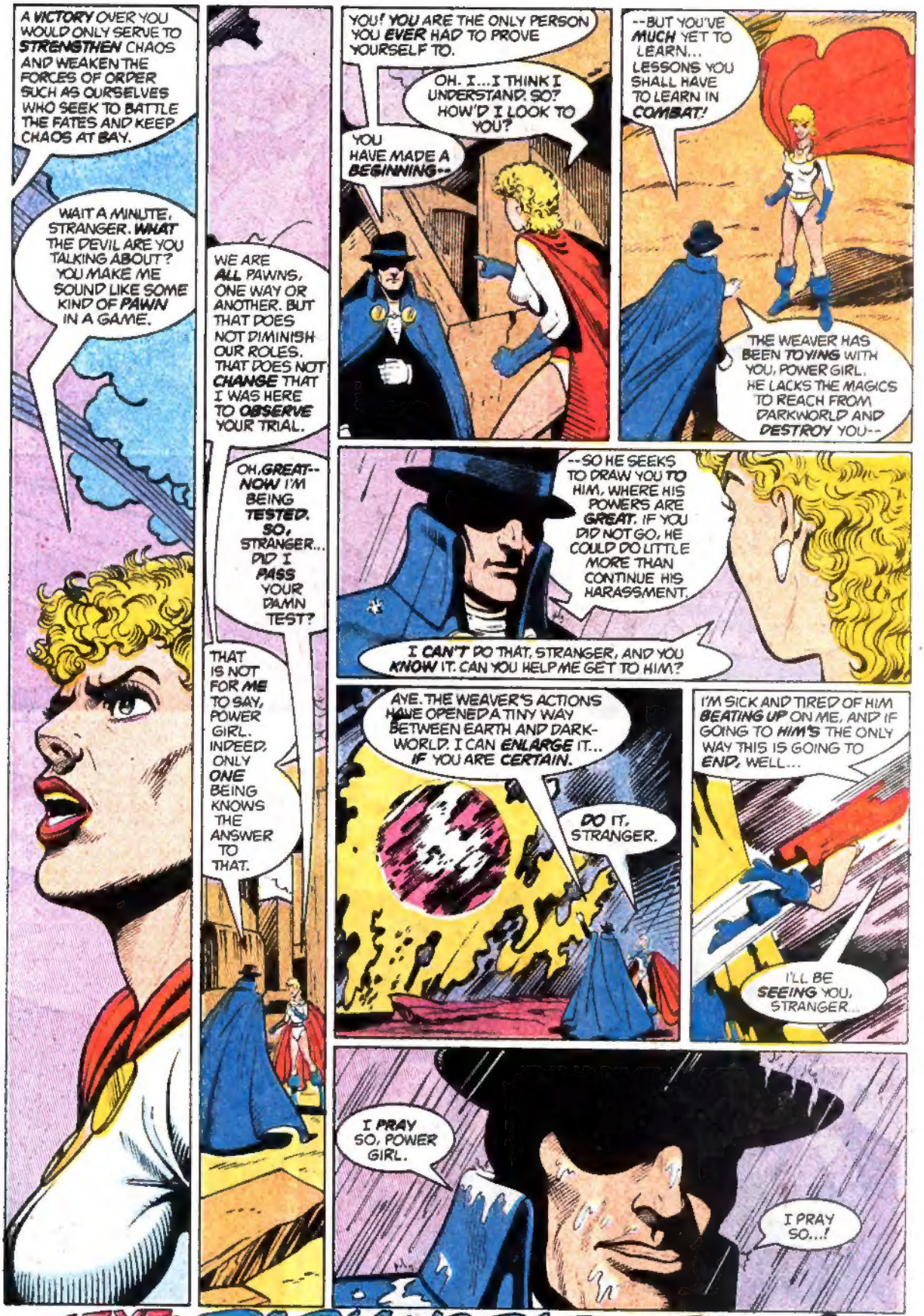

HA HA HA! HE WILL NOT OFFER YOU PROTECTION, GIRL! GLADLY WILL I DESTROY FORCE TO SEE YOU...
...DEAAAAD!
BHA-THOOM!
NOT TODAY, CREEP!

IT WORKED... THE COMBINATION OF MAGIC AND ELECTRICITY SEEMS ABOUT AS GOOD A MIX AS GASOLINE AND FIRE.
SO I WIN THIS ROUND-- BUT I DON'T THINK THE WAR'S OVER. NOT BY A LONG SHOT.
IN THAT YOU ARE CORRECT, POWER GIRL--

--AND IT IS TIME, AT LAST, YOU WERE MADE AWARE OF THE TRUE NATURE OF YOUR CONFLICT.
WHO...?
I AM... THE PHANTOM STRANGER. I WITNESSED YOUR COMBAT FROM YONDER.

THE STRANGER... I'VE HEARD OF YOU, MISTER-- YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS. WHY DIDN'T YOU HELP ME?
BECAUSE THOUGH I OFTEN TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE SCHEME OF THINGS, I SOMETIMES SERVE MERELY TO OBSERVE.
THIS IS ONE SUCH OCCASION.

THEN I DON'T GET IT. THIS IS JUST SOME OLD GRUDGE MATCH BETWEEN ONE OF MY GRANDFATHER'S OLD FOES AND MYSELF.
ON THE SURFACE, PERHAPS, BUT THE WEAVER IS PART OF A LARGER SCHEME--THE ETERNAL BATTLE BETWEEN THE LORDS OF ORDER AND CHAOS.
FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS, ORDER HAS REIGNED OVER THE UNIVERSE. BUT NOW HAS COME THE TIME WHEN WE ARE TO ABANDON ALL AND LEAVE IT FOR CHAOS'S RULE FOR THE COMING CYCLE.



NEXT: DARKWORLD Duel!

DCP

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A Grumpy Bear Presentation